

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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R 280824Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8910

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FOR DIKEOS AND MISSELBECK FROM KNAUF

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: DISPERSEMENT OF THE RTC, HONG KONG

REF: SCARRITT MEMO TO DIKEOS DATE 1/14/76, SUBJ: DISPERSE-
MENT OF THE REGIONAL TECHINICAL CENTER, HONG KONG

1. THE RSS HAS JUST RETURNED HONG KONG AFTER TRIP TO
VIENTIANE, BANGKOK, RANGOON AND INCLUDED BRIEF STOP IN
KUALA LUMPUR. DURING DISCUSSIONS HELD AT EMBASSY BANGKOK
WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM, ADMIN COUNSELOR AND RSO, IT WAS THE
CONSENSUS OF OPINION OF THOSE OFFICERS THAT THE POST WOULD
IMPOSE NO TOTAL OBJECTION TO ASSIGNMENT OF A TSO IN BANGKOK,
IF BOTH SY AND REGIONAL BUREAU FELT THIS WOULD BE THE MOST
ADVENTAGEOUS LOCATION OF SY ASSETS. HOWEVER, DURING BRIEF-
ING ON POLITICAL SCENE IN THAILAND THERE IS EVIDENCE OF
GROWING POLITICAL INSTABILITY BOTH FROM AN URBAN POLITICAL
DISSENSION AND RURAL INSURGENCE IN DIVERSE REGIONS. TOP

ECHELON OFFICIALS INDICATED THE POST INTENDS TO REDUCE
AMERICAN PERSONEL WHERE EVER POSSIBLE BUT CONSENTED
THAT ASINGLE ADDITIONAL SY POSITION WOULD NOT CREATE
A MAJOR PROBLEM TO THE REDUCTION PROPOSED.

2. AT THE TIME OF KNAUF'S VISIT, THE AMBASSADOR WAS
DUE TO DEPART THAILAND FOR THE CHIEFS OF MISSIONS CON-
FERENCE IN HAWAII AND INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO HOLD
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HIS FINAL OPINION ON ACCEPTANCE OF A TECHINICAL SECURITY

OFFICER IN BANGKOK IN ABEYANCE, PENDING DISCUSSIONS WITH SCARRITT IN HONOLULU. RSS PRESUMES SCARRITT IS STILL CONVINCED OF THIS DISPOSAL OF THE RTC BUT WILL PROBABLY FIND DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING THE AMBASSADOR TO HAVE TWO TSOS ESTABLISHED IN BANGKOK AS PROPOSED IN THE MEMORANDUM TO DIKEOS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR, DCM AND PARTICULARLY THE RSO DID NOT ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL THAT THE TSO POSITION WOULD BE A SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR THE NO. 2 RSO IN BANGKOK, AND WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT A TSO COULD PROVIDE THE ACROSS THE BOARD SECURITY SUPPORT TO RSO KELLY, WHO PROVIDES A VERY BROAD GAUGE SECURITY SERVICE AT THE MISSION IN THAILAND, INCLUDING MANY ASSIGNMENTS NORMALLY NOT SHOULDERED BY OTHER SECURITY OFFICES, I.E. PROMINENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN E&E PLANNING, SUPPORT INVESTIGATIONS BY OTHER AGENCIES, SUCH AS SECRET SERVICE, AND AT LEAST AT PRESENT A HEAVY WORKLOAD IN VISA FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH AMERICAN AND LOCAL PERSONNEL IN THE CONSULAR SECTION. HOWEVER, ADMIN CONSULAR REIGER HELD THAT WITH HIS EXPERIENCE SUPPORT, KELLY COULD PROBABLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF A NO. 2 POSITION, BUT HE WOULD ABIDE BY THE ULTIMATE ARRANGEMENTS AS AGREED UPON BETWEEN RALPH SCARRITT AND THE AMBASSADOR AT THE CMC.

4. PRIOR TO RSS'S DEPARTURE, HE ADVISED THE CHARGE', THE ADMIN CONSULOR AND RSO KELLY THAT HE FELT THE NO. 2 OFFICER IN BANGKOK WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES, BOTH FOR THE POST AND THE TRAINING CAPABILITIES OF SY. RSO KELLY PRESENTLY WORKING 50/60 HOURS PER WEEK AND SHOULD THE NO 2 POSITION NOT BE REINSTATED, HE WILL HAVE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STPES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL INVOLVEMENT OF HIS OFFICE. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS VOICED TO THE RSS PROPOSAL TO RETAIN THE NO. 2 POSITION AT THE POST, EVEN RIEGER ACCEPTED THIS DECISION.

5. THE RSS IS CONVINCED AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS OFFICERS IN THE EMBASSY THAT THE PAST CONCERN OF SY ON THE TRAINING OF THE PREVIOUSLY NO. 2 OFFICER AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY MAY BE RESOLVED. UNPREJUDICED SOURCES RELATED THAT THE TRAINEE OFFICER SEEMS TO HAVE HIS SHARE OF PERSONAL HANG-UPS AND DIFFICULTIES AND THAT HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT IN KARTHOUM WILL PROVIDE A TEST OF WHETHER HE CAN ADAPT TO A FOREIGN SERVICE ENVIRONMENT. MEANWHILE RSO KELLY HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED BY THE RSS AND ADMIN COUNSELOR AS TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRAINING NEOPHYTE OFFICERS. THE RSS RECOMMENDS

THAT IF THE EMBASSY IS AMENABLE TO RETAINING THE NO. 2
RSO POST IT SHOULD NOW BE REENCUMBERED.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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